



WATERFALL PREPARATORY

031 710 1814 | 111 Ngwele Road, Hillcrest
hello@waterfallprep.co.za
www.waterfallprep.co.za



NEWSLETTER

Term 2 2018

Volume 2

Dear Parents and Waterfall Prep Children,

The past 18 months have seen the start of an exciting journey for Waterfall Prep, as we have encouraged each other to test our beliefs with respect to how we set up a school and how we go about teaching lessons.

Whilst we are somewhat guided by the expectations of the curriculum, we believe that we also have the responsibility to implement its teaching in a manner that meets the needs of children moving through the system to become positive influencers in society. I am increasingly reminded that we must keep the balance between performance and achievement, and putting in place the foundations that will lead to achievement.

Having worked through the first semester report process with our teachers, I am more convinced than ever that in this stage of a child's life, focusing on the progress that they are making is far more valuable than being concerned with a pre-determined level of accomplishment.

I'm sure that you have heard of the 10 000-hour principle, which speaks of mastery being attained after this amount of time has been devoted to a skill. Yet, we measure and expect mastery of so much at such a young age. I believe that we must steadily build upwards, spending lots of time in foundational development, with any measurement during these years focusing on progress, rather than mastery.

Once children start their high school careers, a more focused interest is levelled towards ability in specific subject areas. We have chosen to use our Grade 7 year as the point by when certain skills and knowledge should be in place, hopefully ensuring a smooth transition into high school.

That being said, we want to allow our children time to discover a variety of potential areas of interest. Involving children in "non-academic" activities, such as music, could unlock many doors. However, an expectation of perfection could frighten many of them off. Creating a love for the activity is our first goal. We're exploring how to establish a choir that can be filled with fun, music appreciation, learning and many associated skills of being a choir member, without being assessed for its musicality. The goal is not the perfect performance, but rather the experience. The expectation is not to achieve a standard, but to make progress.

Let's give children space to have fun while learning and not be caught in an old way of thinking, where success is determined only by the achievement level reached.

Warm regards

Brad Cooper

Headmaster



BOOK WEEK

In April, we celebrated a week dedicated to books. As part of Book Appreciation Week, our Grade 4 classes walked down to Waterfall Pre-Primary School (on the iThemba Campus) to read to the Grade oos. We were so proud to watch as the boys and girls read so beautifully, capturing the little ones' attention.

Our pupils ended off the week by dressing up as their favourite story book characters. Children and teachers alike had a wonderful time guessing characters and we were incredibly impressed by everyone's costumes! Thank you to Books2You for also joining us in celebration of World Book Day.

CELEBRATING MOTHER'S AND FATHER'S DAYS

We were grateful to have so many moms and dads join us for these special days, giving our pupils a chance to spoil them. It was lovely to see children interacting with their parents and to be reminded that: "Behind every young child who believes in himself is a parent who believed first" (Matthew L Jacobson).



SPREADING LOVE



On a chilly winter's evening in June, Amy Corden committed to helping those in our community who are unable to escape the cold. From that desire to help has grown a community of children, dedicated to sharing their heart for others. Since then, Amy and the 40-plus members of Heart for Hope have collected and distributed more than 100 NB Bags to two of the eight creches that Focus on iThemba partners with. "Thank you to the parents for all their amazing support and to the children for their excitement and enthusiasm," said Kerry Corden.

"We are so grateful for the privilege to have the opportunity to share God's joy, love and hope through the beautiful hearts of children," says Miss Carr. "We look forward, with hope-filled hearts, to building relationships with our brothers and sisters in our community." Follow @heartforhopeSA on Facebook.



OUTDOOR AND ACTIVE



INTER-CLASS CROSS COUNTRY

On Friday, 1 June, our pupils took part in the first Inter-class Cross Country event at Waterfall Preparatory School. Each grade took part in their own version of the Insele Trail on campus and we were very impressed by the

determination of every pupil who crossed the finish line. Thank you to all the moms and dads who attended, as well as the Grade oos from Waterfall Pre-Primary School, who did a great job of cheering on the runners.

KWASANTI WARD CROSS COUNTRY TRIALS

This was our first opportunity to host preparatory schools from across the Highway area in a cross country event and the results were fantastic. Runners from more than 20 schools

took part, showing real heart on a hot winter's day! Waterfall Prep was represented by 10 runners, who did themselves and our school proud. Well done to everyone involved.



Image courtesy of Natalie Miles

UNEARTHING THEIR TREASURE AT SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE



NIGHTS
AWAY

In June, the Grade 4 to 7s enjoyed a night away in their class groups at Spirit of Adventure, where they learned valuable life skills while challenging themselves both physically and mentally. Here are some of the highlights:

"There was much excitement in the weeks leading up to our outing," said Grade 4 teacher, Mrs Currie. "Soon after arriving, the two Grade 4 classes were divided into groups and immediately set about putting together their war cries. After that, the real fun began, as they walked to the dam and constructed their rafts out of poles, barrels and ropes. The children rowed to a 'beach', where 'The Sand people' were hiding. Needless to say, their ambush by the Sand People created chaos! They abandoned the teachers and made a hasty exit on their rafts."

"The fun and learning began the minute the Grade 5 and 6 children arrived at Spirit of Adventure," explained

Grade 6 teacher, Mrs Alborough. "After a long walk down to the dam, they were paired up for the kayaking activity. Despite the freezing water, most of the children completed the task. The unlucky two who overturned showed incredible resilience in climbing back into the kayak and finishing the race.

"Next came rock climbing and abseiling down the dam wall. Many lessons were learnt as the children had to conquer their fear of heights and to trust their leaders for their safety. Supper time was a highlight as everyone was responsible for making their own potjie. Lots of seconds were dished up!

"After a game of Golden Bullion in the dark, stargazing and then a cup of steaming hot chocolate and biscuits, it was bedtime in cabins. A hearty breakfast was served the next morning and then it was time for fierce competition in a Survivor course, where they built shelters, found drinkable water, made a fire to boil an egg and created SOS signals for day and night."

The Grade 7s came back bubbling with enthusiasm. From conquering their fears to exploring the great outdoors and getting to know new things about their classmates, they loved every minute of it. "Lethu made the best chicken!" Surprisingly, perhaps, they appreciated being away from electronics for the duration of their stay. "We had such fun, chatting in our cabins, rock climbing and getting through the night-time obstacle course. You couldn't see your own hand – it was so dark!"

"Everyone got on and we are able to understand each other better now." The class made special mention of Daniel, who wasn't able to join them because of a bout of tick bite fever. They are already looking forward to their next night away!

Share your news here



Do you have a business, event or item for sale that you would like to promote?

To secure your space in our termly newsletters, which reach an audience of more than 400 people, email marketing@waterfallschools.co.za or call 031 710 1821.

*Terms and conditions apply.





NATURAL WONDER

“On 16 May, a day that many would have called ‘cold and miserable’, the Grades 2s experienced a true natural wonder. All it took was for the sun’s rays to hit the misty drizzle at the right angle to create two spectacular rainbows over our Foundation Phase block. The children were so excited that the classroom filled with shrieks and amazement as they crowded the windows to try and get a closer look. We did the only thing that made sense – cancelled the lesson, dropped everything, grabbed our jackets and jerseys, and ran outside to get a better view.

The laughter and the little faces smiling in the rain made the possibility of a bout of snotty noses to follow worth it!

We returned to class to huddle around the heater, turn on the projector and log onto YouTube to research rainbows. We spent the next hour and a half researching to make sure that every question they had was answered and, suddenly, it was snack time.

Needless to say, our timetabled work was way off schedule, but I have a class of Grade 2 children who can explain the basic science of light, angles, prisms and the colour spectrum.

I am so grateful for a school that allows this sort of freedom and encourages us teachers to take our cues from the children and their naturally inquisitive minds.”

Mrs Lauren Rendilheiro, Grade 2

ENCOUNTERING GOD THROUGH HOLLYWOOD MOVIES

“Who would have thought that an animated movie could create space for deep and meaningful encounters with God? The Intermediate Phase children were blessed by a powerful message from the movie *The Croods* during an assembly, last term. The ‘stuck in the tar’ scene involves tension between Grug and Guy resulting in a tussle and the two of them falling down a cliffside to land in a sticky tar that traps them. Hopelessness overcomes Guy, but Grug refuses to allow the situation to beat them. He encourages Guy to think of one of his brilliant, creative ideas to get them out of the mess. The two reconcile their differences and work together to escape.

Life can sometimes feel like ‘sticky tar’. Things happen and we find ourselves stuck in what feel like impossible situations. But with God, nothing is impossible (Luke 1:37)! Our freedom is so important to Him and He will never leave us in a ‘sticky mess’. Psalm 18:19 says: ‘His love broke open the way and he brought me into a beautiful broad place. He rescued me because his delight is in me.’

The children closed their eyes and thought about some of the ‘sticky mess’ they were facing. They made the choice to partner with God and then declared out aloud that with God, nothing is impossible! In a quiet moment, they allowed Him to fill their hearts with hope as they trusted Him for the solution.

For many of the children, the ‘sticky tar’ represented friendship and relationship tension, subjects they were experiencing difficulties with, and things they were fearful of doing. I believe many little hearts were filled with hope as they began to understand God’s heart towards them.

Going forward, as they feel the familiar ‘stuckness’, we trust that their default will not be hopelessness, but that they would remember that with God all things are possible and that His heart for them is not ‘stuckness’ but wide open spaces!”

Mrs Lorraine Benn, Head of IP





BIG WALK

Our annual Big Walk (pictured above) gets better each year! We were amazed by the number of families who got involved. Thank you to our immensely creative teachers for setting up the awesome course.

FIRST STEPS

Did you know that the Pre-Primary accepts children from the age of 12 months? The 2019 class has a few spaces available. To find out more, contact Sam on 031 710 1813 or info@waterfallpreprimary.co.za.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PLAY

In Term 2, we hosted our first "Importance of Play" workshop with Director, Sharron Lane. We looked at the developmental stages that little ones need to go through before they can be considered ready for Grade R and the positive impact of play on this process. We look forward to hosting more informative workshops throughout the year.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

In April, we hosted the principals from Embo Child Educare and Siyjabula crèche, based in the Embo community, for an information sharing session with our Principal, Paula Mason. We look forward to welcoming other selected teachers to show them first-hand how our Early Childhood Development programme is run.

WINTER WARMTH DRIVE

We were overwhelmed by the amazing contributions towards our Winter Warmth Drive for S'thandokuhle Creche, one of the eight creches that Focus on iThemba partners with. Thank you to our parents and little ones for this act of kindness!

iThemba Scholars Programme

Two years ago, Focus on iThemba, based on the iThemba Campus, initiated the iThemba Scholars Programme. This offers two new scholarships each year for selected children, from the eight creches we partner with, to attend Waterfall Schools. These scholarships cover tuition up until Grade 12 and, to date, there are eight students within the programme. This number will continue to grow each year.

To collaborate with us and hear more please email Tayla, Donor Relations Manager, on tayla@focusonithemba.org

Thank you!





A BUSY TERM FOR SPORT AND CULTURE

Waterfall College hosted Inter-schools Rugby 7s and Cross Country in the second term – a wonderful opportunity to welcome schools from across KZN to our beautiful campus. “Following careful preparation and planning by the Sports Department, management, staff, marketers, parents, students and assistants, our visitors not only thoroughly enjoyed the event, but sang the praises of the campus and the

hosting procedures,” says Principal Jeanette van der Merwe. “I would like to thank all those involved in making the event such a wonderful means to market our school to the greater Durban community.”

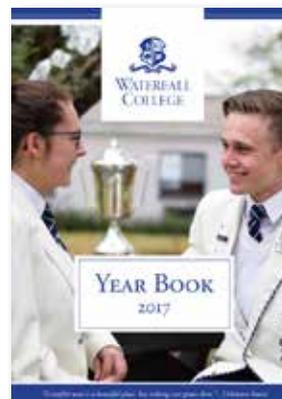
The annual school drama production, *Alice Through the Looking Glass* was another success, with the audience thoroughly enjoying the impressive, alternative take on *Alice in Wonderland*.

GRADE 7 VISIT TO WATERFALL COLLEGE

In June, our Grade 7s headed up to Waterfall College for a tour and fun talks by Principal Mrs Jeanette van der Merwe, Head of GET Mr Greg Kyle and 2018 Head Prefects, Dylan and Candice. The class are incredibly excited about entering Grade 8 in 2019 and had the chance to explore the grounds and meet the awesome team at the school. They especially enjoyed the Consumer Studies room, where they were able to their hands dirty!



BE PART OF THE WATERFALL COLLEGE YEARBOOK 2018



Share your brand with pupils, parents, alumni and staff in a high-quality magazine that will be kept for years to come.

Adverts range in size from a ¼ page to a double page spread. Sponsorship options also available.

To find out more, email marketing@waterfallschools.co.za or call 031 710 1821.



Join us for our
OPEN EVENING
Grades 4 - 7

4:30-5:30pm | Thursday, 23 August

031 710 1814 or hello@waterfallprep.co.za



**WATERFALL
PREPARATORY**